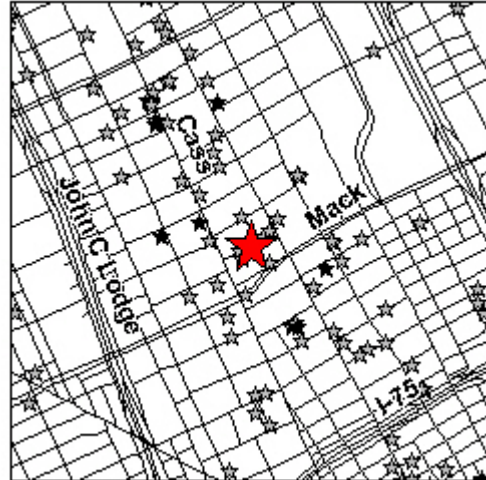


Saints Peter and Paul Academy

64 Parsons

Local		
State	✓	
State Marker		
National	✓	9/22/97



Historic overview:

The SS. Peter and Paul Academy was considered one of the finest school buildings in the city, and is one of the few Late Victorian school buildings left in Detroit. Constructed in 1892, the academy was designed by Leon Coquard, a local architect with a national reputation for church design.

SS. Peter & Paul Academy was built for the St. Patrick's parish, whose main church as organized in the early 1860s for the purpose of serving the Irish constituents of the Cathedral of SS. Peter & Paul. By 1880, St. Patrick's had become one of Detroit's largest and wealthiest Catholic churches, and in 1890 became Pro-Cathedral of the Roman Catholic Diocese until 1938, and changed to the name of SS. Peter & Paul. The academy was built several blocks away from the church due to land scarcity.

From 1893 until 1969, the academy functioned as girls' high school and co-ed grade school. The academy opened under the administration of the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. When the parish resumed its original title of the Church of St. Patrick in 1938, the high school was renamed "Immaculata High School." The name was soon was changed to "Girls' Catholic Central High School," and the grade school became "St. Patrick's Grade School."

The schools were closed in 1969 due to the demographic shift in the neighborhood caused by the emigration of people from the city to the suburbs. The building remained vacant for three years until it opened as the St. Patrick Senior Center in 1973. The building has undergone renovations, which have updated the building for its current use while maintaining and restoring the original materials.

